



Water Resources Division's Aquatic Invasive Species of the Week!

FOR THE WEEK OF:

July 1-7, 2013

Oriental Weatherfish

Misgurnus anguillicaudatus

Origin: Eastern Asia

Also known As: Dojo, Weather loach, Japanese weatherfish, Amur weatherfish, Chinese loach

Current Distribution in Michigan: Established population in the Shiawassee River in Oakland and Genesee counties.



Photo: Windsor Aguirre, USGS



Photo: Jeff Thorlacius

Means of Introduction: Believed to have escaped from a nearby aquarium supply company in Oakland County before 1951.

Impacts: May reduce populations of aquatic insects which serve as food to native fishes.

Description: Grows up to 11 inches. Eel-like body, brown with greenish grey-brown marble markings dorsally. The mouth is small, narrow, and is surrounded by at least six barbels.

Habitat: Typically found in still or slow moving, shallow waters with mud-bottoms, often in aquatic plant beds. During periods of drought or cold, weatherfish will burrow into the mud until conditions improve.

Interesting feature: Oriental weatherfish have earned their name- they are known to become very active and swim in rapid circles just before a storm comes to the area!

For more information on the Oriental weatherfish, please visit the United States Geological Survey's website on Nonindigenous Aquatic Species at www.nas.er.usgs.gov

